THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) U.S.A.

(c) and (d) Advance licences under a Special Scheme have been given for import of 9,23,432 MTs of Soyabean by 31st August, 1995.

Reinforcing control on molasses

127. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to reinforce control on molasses;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid op the Table of the House.

Setting up of India Brand Promotion Fund

128. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is proposing to set up; India Brand Promotion Fund (IBPF) to promote the image of the country as a supplier of quality goods and services worldwide;

(b) whether the fund will be managed by any Board to be constituted for the purpose; and

(c) if so, the terms and conditions of the Board and the criteria to be adopted for selecting its Chairman/Members?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal for establishing what may be termed as "India Brand Fund" which will focus attention on efforts to access new markets and improve the competitiveness of Indian products and services.

(b) and (c) The formation of "India Brand Fund" is still under consideration of the Government.

Efforts to balance export commitments and domestic requirements of Coffee

129. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what efforts are being made to balance export commitments and domestic requirements of coffee;

(b) what is the estimated production of Coffee for the year 1995-96 and the target for export;

(c) what steps have been taken by Coffee Board to ensure availability of coffee for domestic market at affordable prices; and

(d) whether Government are keeping a watch 6n the crop prospects of coffee in Brazil, Columbia and far-eastern countries to formulate a realistic export strategy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) In order to facilitate exports as well as domestic sales, the Govt, has allowed from 22nd April, 100% Free Sale Quota (FSQ) to small farmers having holding size below 10 hec. and 70% FSQ to others under which a grower has an option to sell his produce cither in domestic market or export market. This has given adequate opportunity to meet export commitments by growers/exporters. At the same time, to ensure domestic availuhility, the Coffee Board is holding auctions and selling coffee through its outlets utilising coffee pooled with the Board. Govt has also put decaffeinated/roasted coffee on OGL which allows free import in case of domestic scarcity.

(b) As per pre-blossom estimates made by the Coffee Board, the production for 1995-96 is likely to be around 2,30,000 tonnes and the export target has been fixed at 1,50,000 tonnes.

(c) To ensure availability of coffee in the domestic market at affordable prices, Coffee Board has, with effect from 15th

July, 1995, made available for sale through its 42 promotional outlets, pure quality coffee powder blertds at reasonable prices *viz,* (a) Plantation 'C blend at Rs, 125/- per Kg, and (b) Commercial blend at Rs! 130/- per Kg. which are inclusive of all taxes and are much below the prevalent market price,

(d) Yes, Sir.

Revival or Shrimp Culture by MlPEDA in Andhra Pradesh after the Viral DeSastcr

130. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA$-WAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether MPEDA Is making any afforts to revive shrimp culture in Andhra Pradesh after the viral disaster last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof! and

(c) whether a team has been constituted for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY^OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Steps taken by MPEDA *utter alia* include:—

(i) Recommendation for declaration of 'crop holiday' for a period of 3-4 months as a measure to contain the spread of the virus;

(ii) Issue of guidelines for re-starting shrimp farming after the crop holiday;

(iii) Dissemination amongst farmers for adoption of information on pollution control including design for affluent treatment system developed and suggested by the National Environment Engineering Research Institute (NEERI).

(c) Yes, Sir.

Trade Relations with Yemen

131. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to expand trade relations with Yemen;

(b) whether any agreement has been signed between India and Yemen for the purpose; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARM); (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir, howeyer, the Ihdo-Yemen Joint Committee, at its first meeting held recently from July 10-11, reached mutual under-standing on a number of points for the promotion of the bilateral trade relations.

(c) The two countries agreed on the need for measures to expand and diversify the trade. Items were indentificd for Yemen's increased imports from India. The two countries would conclude a bilateral framework trade agreement. Any difficulties in the areas of banking, shipping, and issue of business visas would be addressed through mutual consultations. The importance of promoting direct business level contacts between the two sides was emphasised in particular.

Pcr-Capita Income in Gujarat

132. SHRI CHIMANBHAI HARIBHAI SHUKLA: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether per-capita income in Gujarat hat increased or decreased in 1993-94 and 1994-95 as compared to 1992-93;

(b) If so, the percapita Income in Gujarat in 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95; and

(c) the estimated per-capita income In Gujarat during the first three months of the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG)! (a) and (b) The estimates of percapita Income at